

F
1636
.S55
S65

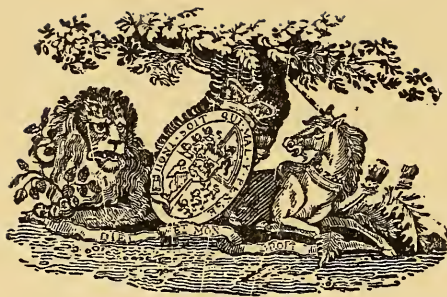
Sir Thomas Smythe, knt.

(1558?-1625)

*Governor of the East
India Company and
Patron of Bermuda*

SIR STANLEY SPURLING, C.M.G., O.B.E.





"Were American Newcomen to do naught else, our work is well done if we succeed in sharing with America a strengthened inspiration to continue the struggle towards a nobler Civilization—through wider knowledge and understanding of the hopes, ambitions, and deeds of leaders in the past who have upheld Civilization's material progress. As we look backward, let us look forward."

—CHARLES PENROSE

*Senior Vice-President for North America
The Newcomen Society of England*



This statement, crystallizing a broad purpose of the society, was first read at the Newcomen Meeting at New York World's Fair on August 5, 1939, when American Newcomen were guests of The British Government

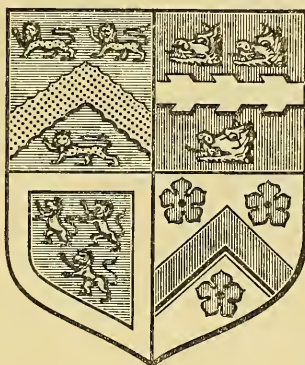
"Actorum Memores simul affectamus Agenda"

SIR THOMAS SMYTHE, KNT.

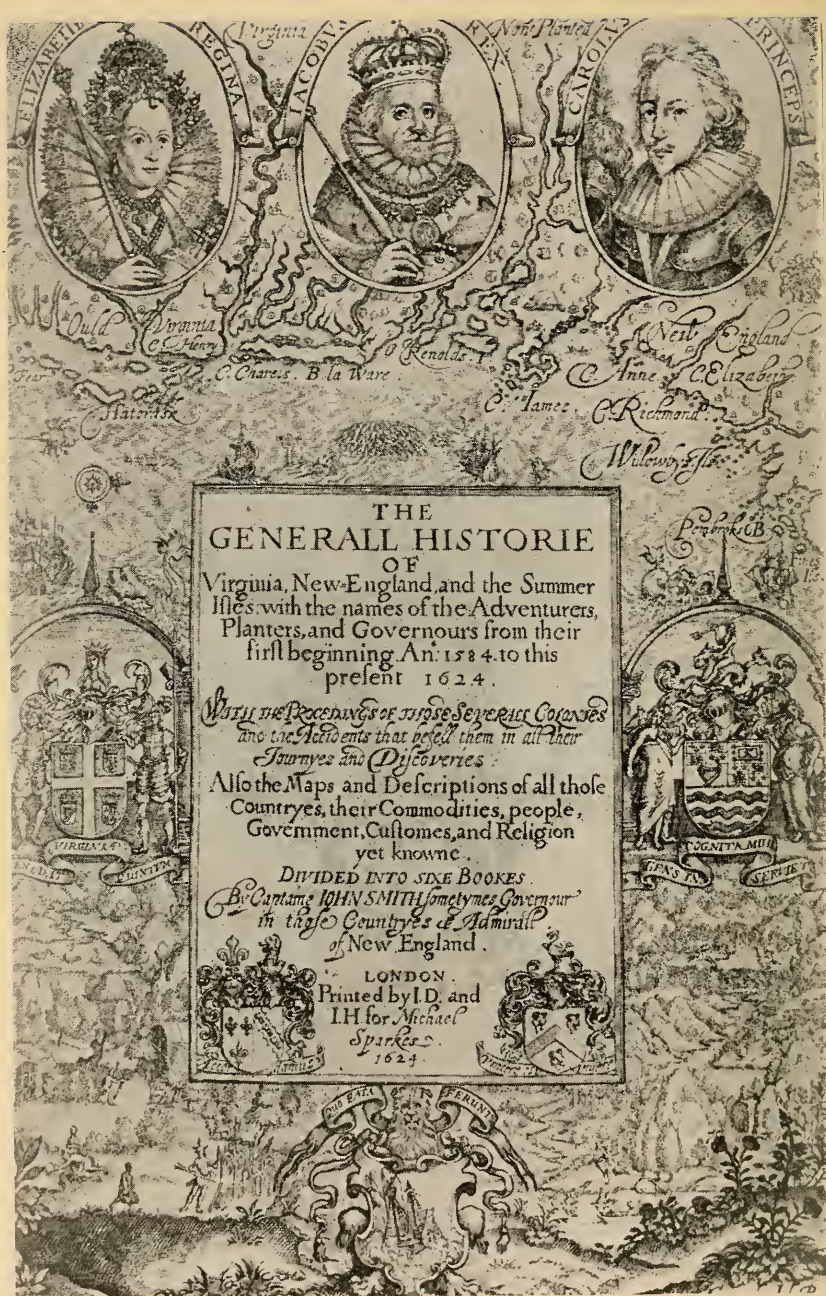
(1558?-1625)

*Governor of the East India Company
and
Patron of Bermuda*

An Address in Tuckers Town
St. George's Parish
Bermuda



AMERICAN NEWCOMEN, *through the years, has honored the memories of numerous pioneers, in many fields of human endeavor and both in the United States of America and in Canada. Such a Newcomen manuscript is this, dealing with the life story of a great Englishman of the 16th and 17th Centuries, whose vision and initiative and inspiration reached from Britain to North America! The brilliant memory of this God-fearing and courageous Merchant Adventurer and Colonizer—this*
“Patron of Bermuda”—*may well be
revered and cherished!*



"The Generall Historie of
 ... and the Summer Isles"

Printed at London

1624

Sir Thomas Smythe, knt.

(1558?-1625)

*Governor of the East
India Company and
Patron of Bermuda*

SIR STANLEY SPURLING, C.M.G., O.B.E.

MEMBER OF THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

THE BERMUDA FIRE AND MARINE

INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

HAMILTON

BERMUDA



THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY IN NORTH AMERICA
NEW YORK SAN FRANCISCO MONTREAL

1955

Copyright, 1955
THE NEWCOMEN PUBLICATIONS
IN NORTH AMERICA



*Permission to abstract is granted
provided proper credit is allowed*



*The Newcomen Society, as a body,
is not responsible for opinions
expressed in the following pages*



First Printing: May 1955



*This Newcomen Address, dealing with the
early history of the Island of Bermuda and
its Patron, Sir Thomas Smythe, was delivered
at the "1955 Bermuda Dinner" of The New-
comen Society in North America, held at Mid
Ocean Club in the Parish of Tuckers Town,
on the Island of Bermuda, when Sir Stanley
Spurling was the guest of honor, on*

May 11, 1955



SET UP, PRINTED AND BOUND IN THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA FOR THE NEWCOMEN PUBLICATIONS IN
NORTH AMERICA BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS



F
1636
S55
S65



INTRODUCTION OF THE HON. SIR STANLEY SPURLING, IN
BERMUDA ON MAY 11, 1955, BY SIR JOHN COX, CBE,
PRESIDENT, BERMUDA TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED,
HAMILTON; VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BERMUDA COM-
MITTEE, IN THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY IN NORTH AMERICA

My fellow members of Newcomen:

As a recently elected member of The Newcomen Society I would like to take the occasion of my first attendance at a meeting of the Society to express appreciation of the honour done me in electing me to the Society, and as a Bermudian to join the general welcome to Bermuda extended to all members from overseas assembled here tonight.



We in this little Island take great pride in its history, and like to recall the epic story of its founding nearly three and one half centuries ago. It is my privilege on this occasion to introduce to

you The Honourable Sir Stanley Spurling, who, I understand, will deliver an address on one of the most courageous of the adventurers of the Seventeenth Century, and one who played a most important part in the establishment of this ancient Colony.



When the current history of Bermuda comes to be written, the name of Salisbury Stanley Spurling will be prominent among those who by their industry and ability prompted the public weal of our Island home, and who have maintained and enhanced a tradition of good government.



Born in 1879 on a tiny Island in St. Georges' Harbour, Sir Stanley has had a long and distinguished career in the public service of his native land. He was first elected a member of the House of Assembly in 1901, when 21 years of age, and continued to serve therein until 1942, when he resigned to accept appointment to our upper House, the Honourable the Legislative Council.



Sir Stanley has also had long and distinguished service as a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council in Bermuda, and has at one time or another been Chairman of most of our more important Government Boards, and has always taken an active and leading part in Church and parochial affairs.

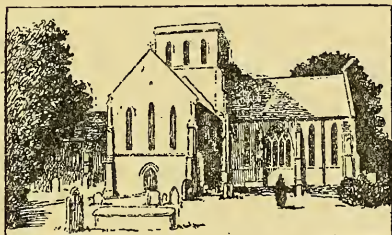


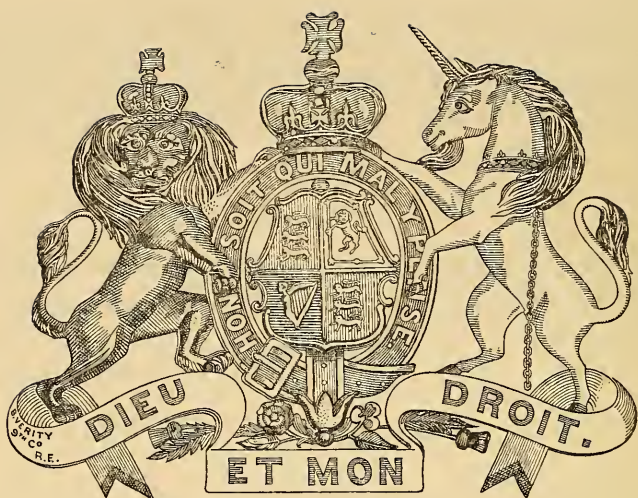
As if this were not enough, Sir Stanley was also for many years the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the House of Assembly. This Committee has the onerous task of preparing the annual budget and advising the Assembly on all financial matters. It is of this part of Sir Stanley's public work that I can speak with special knowledge having served on this committee under him for over five years. I can say with assurance that his contribution to public affairs has excited the admiration of us all.

As long ago as 1918, Sir Stanley was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire; in 1925, a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; and on the 27th June 1935, he was created a Knight Bachelor by His Late Majesty King George V.



Gentlemen, I present to you SIR STANLEY SPURLING, one of Bermuda's most highly respected and distinguished sons.





My fellow members of Newcomen:

SIR THOMAS SMYTHE was born in 1558, second son of Thomas Smythe, *Esq.*, of Westenhanger, Kent, England, his mother being the daughter of Sir Andrew Judd, who established and endowed Tonbridge Grammar School, in Kent. Sir Andrew was Lord Mayor of the City of London in 1550, and is described in old documents as a "Skinner and Merchant of Muscovy." Sir Andrew, as Sheriff and Lieutenant of the City of London, received his Knighthood at the hands of King Edward VI. Sir Thomas appears to have taken up his freedom and livery in both the Skinners' and Haberdashers' Companies.



At the early age of twenty-three he was the incorporator of the Levant Company of Constantinople, and this was followed by the creation of many other trading Companies. The Dutch had been very successful in trade with India and the Far East, and Queen Elizabeth and the London Merchants were aroused and interested in organizing a trading venture to India, in 1600. The Queen suggested a Gentleman Knight to lead it, but the Company of Merchants, however, decided "not to employ any Gentleman in

any place of charge," but asked "that they might be allowed to sort their business with men of their own qualitie, lest the suspicion of the employment of Gentlemen being taken hold upon by the generality, do drive a number of adventurers to withdraw their contributions."



They then chose Thomas Smythe, by this time an Alderman, to be their Governor, and under his guidance appointed James Lancaster, who already had been to the East, to be the Admiral of their Fleet in a ship of 600 tons. Lancaster took three years on this venture, but as it yielded a profit of over ninety percent, a second expedition was organized by subscriptions of £128,000. 0. 0. and this was equally successful.



In 1601, *Mr. Chairman*, he was seriously compromised by, if not actually implicated in, the attempt of the Earl of Essex to win over the citizens of London, in his ill-starred rebellion against Queen Elizabeth. The Earl, with some of his followers, called on Mr. Sheriff Smythe at his house in Gracious Street, on the 8th February, 1601. Sheriff Smythe claimed Essex said he had come to his house for safety but begged him not to enter, alleging the Lord Mayor's house would be safer. When Essex insisted on entering, Smythe claimed he went out the back gate to inform the Lord Mayor. Essex eventually withdrew, but found himself faced by an opposing force under The Bishop of London. He escaped on his barge and reached Essex House safely and tried to fortify it, but surrendered and was executed on the 25th of the same month.



Smythe was arrested and was examined by three Lords, and for some time he and his wife were in durance vile; he was dismissed from his offices in the City and another Alderman and Sheriff was chosen in his stead.

On the death of Queen Elizabeth, in 1603, he soon rose again in Royal favour, was knighted in 1603; and, in 1604, he and his

brother Richard were appointed Receivers for the Duchy of Cornwall.



He was without a doubt the most enterprising Merchant Adventurer of his time, if not of all time. He took a leading part in the trading by the Muscovy Company, receiving valuable concessions to trade in the North and North West of Europe with free entry of merchandize at London and Dunkirk, for twenty years. It was due to this successful experience that he was appointed British Ambassador to Russia in 1604 and, after presenting his credentials to the Emperor in October, obtained new privileges for his Company and a payment of six hundred roubles. Sir Thomas did not remain long as Ambassador to Russia. Once having accomplished his mission to secure trading rights, he resigned and returned to London to direct the many great overseas trading ventures which created the British Empire and brought wealth to its Merchant Adventurers.



The very first name in the record of the Court of Committee of the famous East India Company was that of Sir Thomas Smythe and, on the 1st July, 1607, he was elected Governor of that Company. There is no doubt that the foundation of England's greatness in India and the development of England's enormous trade with the Far East was due largely to Sir Thomas's fostering care. In fact, King James I recognized this by requesting the Directors to re-elect him Governor for another seven years.



Sir Thomas took a very active part in securing the Charter of The Virginia Company from King James I, in 1609, under the name of: "The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London."



The same year, a fleet of eight ships under Admiral Sir George Somers was sent off to Virginia with the Governor designate

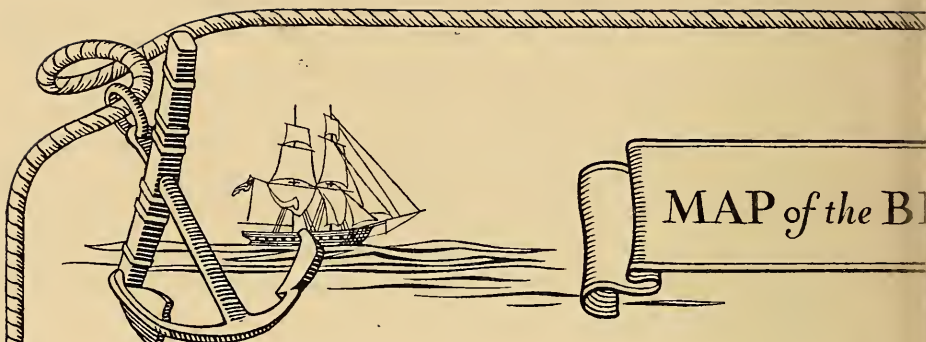
(General Sir Thomas Gates) on board the Flagship *Sea Venture*. On the 25th of July, the fleet ran into a tropical hurricane and the "Winds and seas were as mad as fury and rage could make them," so writes historian Strachy, who was on the ship. "Our clamours were drowned in the winds and the winds in thunder. The sea swelled above the clouds and gave battle unto Heaven. It could not be said to rain; the waters like whole rivers did flood the air." "The St. Elmo's Fire made its appearance, trembling and streaming along with a sparkling blaze, half the height upon the main-mast, and shooting sometimes from shroud to shroud."



The *Sea Venture* had lost all touch with the other seven vessels; and, on the 28th July, land was sighted—the Bermudas! In a few hours the *Sea Venture*, all but ready to sink, was worked into a safe resting place between two shoals, known from that day as "Sea Venture Flat." Before dark, all one hundred and forty men and women were safely on shore, camp pitched, and sentries posted. In nine months a pinnace and a sloop were built and they sailed on to Virginia, setting up before they left a picture of the King in a silver coin on a Cross, with an inscription in Latin and English virtually claiming the Islands for the Virginia Company. Three years later, in 1612, The Virginia Company sent out the first batch of sixty colonists in the *Plough*, and thus Bermuda was colonized under the name Virginiola, under the able direction of Sir Thomas Smythe, the then Governor of the Company. All the Common Law of England automatically came into force in the Colony as there were no native inhabitants, English customs and practices taking root naturally. The Island the first settlers landed on was named "Smythe's Island," the first fort built to guard the entrance to the harbour was called "Smythe's Fort, and, in later years, one of the Tribes or Parishes was named after him.



Lord de la Warr was the first Governor of Virginia and was succeeded by Sir Dudley Charlton, who brought with him 300



MAP of the B



AMUDAS



settlers. Then came Sir George Yardly, who summoned the first Council in Virginia, which drew up a code of laws, selected a site for a College and University, and inaugurated a regular system of cultivation and taxation. In 1619, some 1,260 more settlers arrived; and in this year a Legislature of two Houses was instituted and a large measure of self-government established. Thus was the real beginning of our great neighboring Nation which today is defending the principles of justice and freedom. Founded by Gentlemen Adventurers, supported and backed by the Bishops of The Church of England, it had a propitious start which it has maintained.



Sir Thomas Smythe's policies were often a subject of criticism and led to his resignation as Governor of The Virginia Company, so he resigned. The dispute came before the Council, on which occasion The King expressed his opinion that the plaintiffs only desired unfairly to tarnish the reputation of Sir Thomas Smythe. Finally the original Charter was cancelled and a new one granted in 1625.



As stated, The Virginia Company had given the name Virginiola to the Bermudas, they having been previously known from the visits of Captain Juan de Bermudez, a Spaniard; but the name soon was abandoned for "The Bermudas or Somers' Islands." Then The Virginia Company sold the Islands for two thousand Pounds to a sub-sidiary Company entitled: "The Governor and Company of the City of London for the Plantacon of the Somers' Islands." On completion of a survey, the new Company expressed dissatisfaction with the small area of 19½ square miles, so The Virginia Company agreed to make a grant of land toward their support and this arrangement is commemorated by the name of the Bermuda Hundred in Chesterfield County, Virginia, although apparently no active steps ever were taken to incorporate the area under control of the Bermuda Company.

Sir Thomas was a Commissioner for the Royal Navy and did much to reorganize it; he was an active Member of the House of Commons; and was the holder of several official appointments. He was in charge of the war waged on the Barbary pirates; and was a Member of a Commission with Lord Cranford and several Members of Council, to confer with the States of Holland for a settlement of the differences between the British and Dutch East India Companies. This failed to reach agreement and the Lord High Admiral was directed to seize some Dutch ships as reprisal for injuries inflicted on British vessels.



His conduct of business was distinguished for its honesty and integrity, as well as for its efficiency. Captain John Smith describes him and his associates in the following terms: "There are some merchants and others, I am confidently perswaded, doe take more care and paines, nay, and at their continuall great charge, than they could be hired for the love of money, so honestly regarding the general good of this great worke, they would hold it worse than sacrilege to wrong it by a shilling, or extort upon the common souldier a penny."



When the inquiry was conducted into the affairs of The Virginia Company, in 1625, it was held that "some seventy thousand pounds had been spent by these voluntary adventurers, many of them friends and allies of Sir Thomas Smythe and for his sake joining themselves in that business, which was advanced with moderation, integrity and judgement, principally conducted by Sir Thomas Smythe."



The Offices of nearly all of these Trading Companies were housed on the ground floor of Sir Thomas's spacious house on Philpott Lane, London. Upstairs was kept as a museum to display the strange interesting trophies of the voyages North, East, South, and West, brought home by the Captains of his ships. This house was always available as a temporary home for them. Sir

Thomas enthusiastically always had his friend Hackluyt provide the Captains with all available information on their routes, and they in return were keen to gather good tales to tell on their return.



The operation of these trading Companies was overseen by a small committee of Directors who served gratuitously, but whose work was dominated by Sir Thomas. He was frugal and upright and of immense energy. Obviously he was capable, resolute, and forceful, determined to forge a career in spite of any opposition, so naturally he incurred hostility. In his private life he was large hearted, kindly, and charitable. In 1609, the East India Company voted him five hundred pounds for "his paines taken in the place of Governour of the Company for the space of five years, in procuring the first and second patents &c" but "His Worship lovinglie accepting of the Companie's kindness herein, utterly refused to take the oath of Governour until the Companie were first contented to take back of the said gratification, the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds. The residue, His Worship, kindlie yielded to take." His paramount interest was the East India Company, whose shareholders consistently, in adversity as in prosperity, elected him to their governorship, so long as he could serve, and during this time, they received in dividends a million pounds Sterling.



Sir Thomas was a decidedly devout man, mildly of a Puritan cast. A Chaplain, named Patrick Copeland, had picked up an Indian boy on a voyage to the East and taught him to read and write. The Company, under Sir Thomas's guidance, had his education broadened and developed along religious lines according to The Church of England, and, with the consent of the Archbishop of Canterbury, that boy was duly baptized and trained to fit him to send him back to his own people to spread The Gospel.



Sir Thomas lived in a house known as Skinners' Place at Deptford, but this was burnt to the ground in 1619, when he moved

to his house at Sutton Place, in Kent. It is believed he rebuilt the Church of St. John the Baptist, Sutton-at-Hone, Kent, which was destroyed by fire in 1615, said to have been set on fire by a person firing off a gun at a bird in the Church. The Registers of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester record no grant of aid from the patrons of the living, and the other local inhabitants could never have raised the necessary funds.



In 1619, he bestowed upon Tonbridge School an endowment to be administered by the Skinners' Company for raising the salary of the Headmaster and also of the Usher; and for a scholarship to enable a poor boy from the School to be sent to a University. He made gifts for the benefit of the poor of Tonbridge, Bidborough, and Speldhurst.



He died on the 4th of September, 1625, from the plague, it is believed, because it was raging in Kent at this time. By his will ample provision was made for his charities, which he began in 1619 and had carried on since then. He "bequeathed to the Master, Wardens, and Commonality of the Skinners' Company, all his houses, messuages, and tenements situate and near Paul's Gate, at the West end of Watling Street, as well as his messuages and tenements in Lyme Street, for the above purposes and also to pay yearly six exhibitions tenable at the Universities to poor scholars from Tonbridge School, whose parents should not be able to afford them a competent maintenance, and who should study Divinity, so that when it might please God to call them to the sacred profession of the Ministry, they should not forget to give God thanks in their prayers for this mercy towards them, so that others might be stirred up to good and charitable works." These scholarships are still maintained by the Skinners' Company.



He left a mourning ring to each of his associates in the East India Company and in some other Companies; five hundred pounds to the Muscovy Company; fifty pounds to build a Church

in Virginia; and fifty pounds to build a Church in Bermuda. As the Church in Bermuda had been completed in 1618, it is believed that the solid silver Chalice of St. Peter's Church, St. George's, Bermuda, was actually paid for out of this sum, although presented to the Church by the Bermuda Company. In the Church at Sutton-at-Hone there is a beautiful memorial to Sir Thomas, a stately canopied structure with a narrow cornice, which, in defiance of the orders, is placed direct on Corinthian Columns; on this Cornice is a tall pedimented escutcheon with admirmantling, surrounded by a tiny scrolled tablet bearing a skull, and flanked by a second broken pediment and by globes. Under the Cornice is a semi-circular arch, the spandrels filled by baroque shields and under the arch the prose inscription.



In a separate rectangular tablet below come the verses, and below them, with a, globe at head and feet, the gowned effigy of Sir Thomas on a banded sarcophagus resting on three plain feet and framed by the panelled bases of the columns. Round the verse tablet are "antiques" (the contemporary term for low relief decoration) such as cover the panels behind the columns. The right-hand globe on the cornice bears a Map of the World, illustrating Sir Thomas's enterprizes from the Amazon to Archangel, from Smith's Sound and Baffin's Bay to Senegal. Sextants and quadrants, globes, compasses, galleys in full sail (men-of-war are frequent in the 18th Century, but merchantmen are always very rare), corded bales, barrels, all wrought into a graceful pattern which only discloses itself on close examination.



Here are the Inscription and Verses on the Memorial.

M.S.

To ye glorie of God and to ye pious Memorie of ye honble S. Thomas Smith Kt. [late Governour of ye East Indian, Moscovia, French & Sommer Iland Companies: Treasurer for the Virginia Plantation: Prime Undertaker [in the year 1612] for that Noble Designe the discoverie of the NORTH-WEST PASSAGE: Principall Comissioner for the London Expedition against ye Pirates: & for a voyage to ye river Senega, upon ye coast of Africa. One of ye chief Comissioners

for ye Navie-Roial & sometime Ambassadour for ye Matie. of Gt. Brit. to ye Emperor & great Duke of Russia & Moscovia &c] Who havinge judiciously conscionably & with admirable facility managed many difficult & weighty affaires to ye honour & profit of this Nation rested from his labours the 4th day Septem: 1625 and his Soul retiring to Him that gave it, his body was here laid up in ye hope of a blessed Resurrection.

“From those large Kingdoms where the Sunn doth rise:
From that newe found land that westward lies
From Volga to the flood of Amazons
From under both the Poles, and all the Zones;
From all the famous Rivers, Lands & Seas
Betwixt this place and our Antipodes,
He got intelligence what might be found
To give contentment through this massie Round,
But finding Earthly things did rather tire
His longing Soul than answer her desire
To this obscured Village he withdrew
From hence his heavnlie Voiage did persue
Here sumed up all And when his Gale of Breath
Had left becalmed in the Port of Death
The Soules fraile Barke [and safe had landed her
Where Faith his Factor and his Harbinger
Made place before] He did [no doubt] obtaine
That wealth wch here in Earth we seek in vain.”

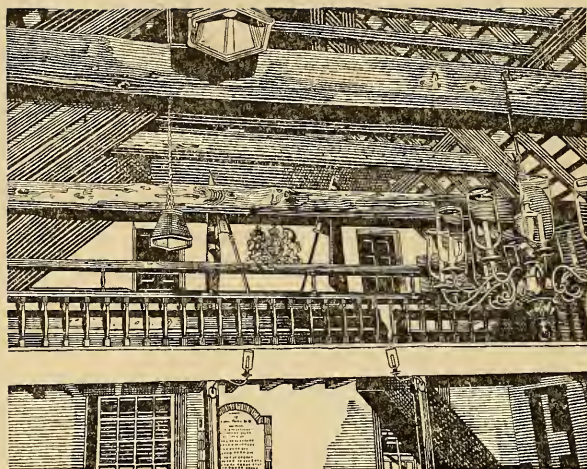


And so we come to an end of this brief narrative. We in Bermuda rightly cherish the memory of this courageous “Patron.” His life, typical of the unique enterprize of English Merchant Adventurers of the 16th and 17th Centuries, had many-sided interests; but always will he be thought of as an Englishman to whom the traditions and heritage of England were a guide and an inspiration. Well did he serve Britain!

THE END



“Actorum Memores simul affectamus Agenda!”



THIS NEWCOMEN ADDRESS, *dealing with the life story of a great English Merchant Adventurer and with the early colonization of Bermuda*, was delivered at the "1955 Bermuda Dinner" of The Newcomen Society in North America, held at Tuckers Town in Bermuda, on May 11, 1955. THE HON. SIR STANLEY SPURLING, C.M.G., O.B.E., the guest of honor, was introduced by SIR JOHN COX, CBE, President, Bermuda Telephone Company Limited; Vice-Chairman of the Bermuda Committee, in American Newcomen. The dinner was presided over by THE HONOURABLE H. D. BUTTERFIELD, C.B.E.; Managing Director, The Bank of N. T. Butterfield & Son, Ltd., Hamilton; Chairman of the Bermuda Committee, in this international Society.





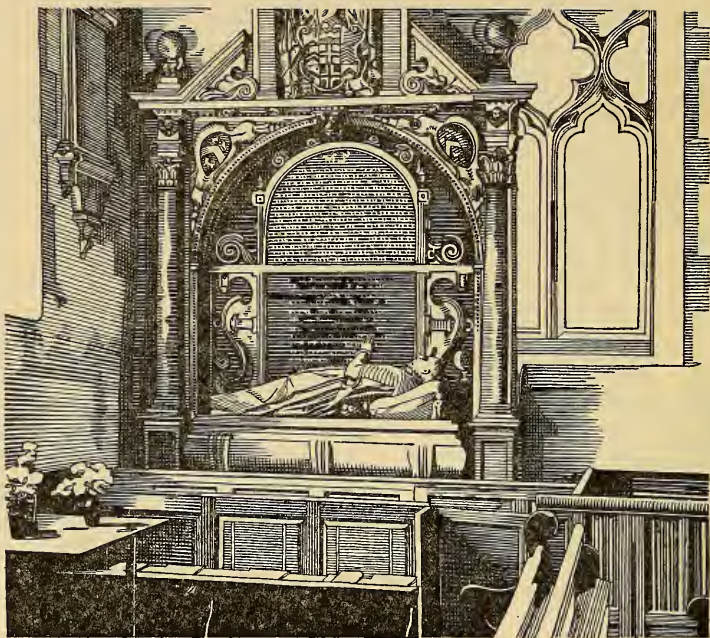
HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY

ELIZABETH II



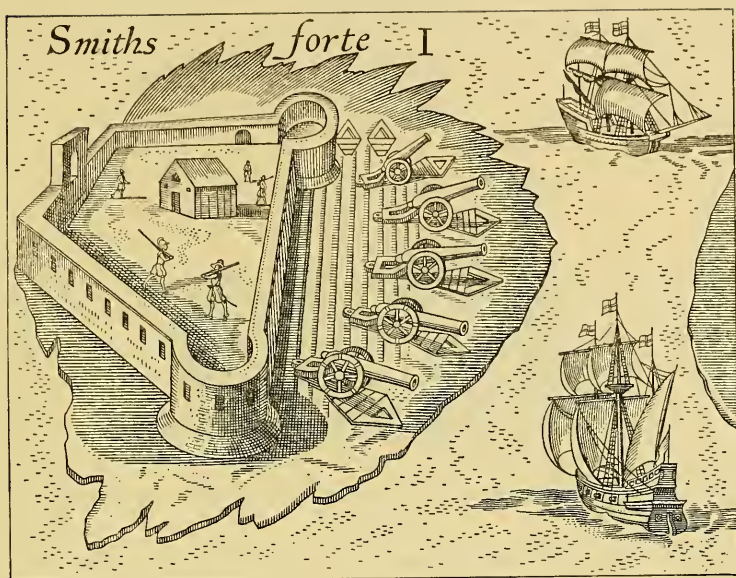
At St. George's Church

Bermuda, November 24, 1953



HERE LIES SIR THOMAS SMYTHE, *in the Sutton Parish Church, near where he died at Sutton-at-Hone in Kent on 4 September 1625. The memory lives on—of this great Merchant Adventurer of Old England!*





“And so we come to an end of this brief narrative. We in Bermuda rightly cherish the memory of this courageous ‘Patron.’ His life, typical of the unique enterprize of English Merchant Adventurers of the 16th and 17th Centuries, had many-sided interests; but always will he be thought of as an Englishman to whom the traditions and heritage of England were a guide and an inspiration. Well did he serve Britain!”

—SIR STANLEY SPURLING





AMERICAN NEWCOMEN, *interested always in those annals which deal with distinguished fields of human endeavor contributing to our Material Civilization, takes satisfaction in this colorful and brilliantly-written Newcomen manuscript. Its pages are another illustration of success achieved through vision, courage, hard work, and unfaltering Faith. Sir Thomas Smythe, knt. had these qualities. Bermuda, today, is one of his great legacies!*





THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY *in North America*

MORE THAN 30 years ago, the late L. F. Loree (1858-1940) of New York, then dean of American railroad presidents, established a group now known as "American Newcomen" and interested in Material History, as distinguished from political history. Its objectives center in the beginnings, growth, development, contributions, and influence of Industry, Transportation, Communication, the Utilities, Mining, Agriculture, Banking, Finance, Economics, Insurance, Education, Invention, and the Law—these and correlated historical fields. In short, the background of those factors which have contributed or are contributing to the progress of Mankind.

The Newcomen Society in North America is a voluntary association, with headquarters in Uwchlan Township, Chester County, within the fox-hunting countryside of Eastern Pennsylvania and 32 miles West of the City of Philadelphia. Here also is located The Thomas Newcomen Library, a reference collection open for research and dealing with the subjects to which the Society devotes attention.

Meetings are held throughout the United States of America and across Canada at which Newcomen Addresses are presented by leaders in their respective fields. These manuscripts represent a broadest coverage of phases of Material History involved, both American and Canadian.

The approach in most cases has been a life-story of corporate organizations, interpreted through the ambitions, the successes and failures, and the ultimate achievements of those pioneers whose efforts laid the foundations of the particular enterprise.

The Society's name perpetuates the life and work of Thomas Newcomen (1663-1729), the British pioneer, whose valuable contributions in improvements to the newly invented Steam Engine brought him lasting fame in the field of the Mechanic Arts. The Newcomen Engines, whose period of use was from 1712 to 1775, paved a way for the Industrial Revolution. Newcomen's inventive genius preceded by more than 50 years the brilliant work in Steam by the world-famous James Watt.



Members of American Newcomen, when in Europe, are invited by the Dartmouth Newcomen Association to visit the home of Thomas Newcomen at Dartmouth in South Devonshire, England, where the festival of "Newcomen Day" is celebrated each year on the anniversary, August 16th, of his death.



*"The roads you travel so briskly
lead out of dim antiquity,
and you study the past chiefly because
of its bearing on the living present
and its promise for the future."*

—LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD,
K.C.M.G., D.S.M., LL.D., U.S. ARMY (RET.)

(1866-1947)

*Late American Member of Council at London
The Newcomen Society of England*





University of
Connecticut
Libraries



39153026469264

